WELCOME TO THE ALEXANDRIA OPEN SPACE SUMMIT

June 23, 2001

AGENDA

8:00 AM	Summit Registration
	Breakfast and Coffee
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9:00	Greetings
	Mayor Kerry Donley
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9:10	Opening Remarks
	 Why an Open Space Study?
	Judy Normake, Park and Recreation Commission
	Planning for Alexandria's Future
\$4.4 B	Enc Wagner, Planning Commission
	Summit to Summit Connections
	Tom Tyler, Environmental Polity Commission
9:30	Keynote Address
	Peter Harnik, author, Inside City Parks
tud I	
10:00	Creating and implementing an Open
, 15.00	Space Plan for Alexandria
Na kwalasika	Elligt Rhodeside, Rhodeside & Harwell, Incorporated
10:45	Break and Snack
	Review the Open Space Map for your Area
11:00	Establishing a Community-based Open Space
11:00	Plan for Alexandria
	Small Group Discussions
	A CHRILICAL AND PURCHASHOUS
12.00 М	Presentation of Group Plans
12:00 Noon	Presentation of Group Figure
10.45	
12:45	Closing Remarks
•	The Honorable James Moran
	U.S. Representative, Virginia & District
1:00	Adjournment



Alexandria Open Space Summit

June 23, 2001

8:00 AM Summit Registration Breakfast and Coffee

9:00 Greetings

Opening Remarks

Open Space Vision

9:10

- Why an Open Space Study? Judy Noritake

Park and Recreation Commission

- Planning for Alexandria's Future

Eric Wagner

Planning Commission

- Summit to Summit Connections

Tom Tyler

Environmental Policy Commission

Keynote Address 9:30

> Peter Harnik, author Inside City Parks

Creating and Implementing an 10:00

Open Space Plan for Alexandria

Elliot Rhodeside

Rhodeside & Harwell, Incorporated

10:45 **Break and Snack**

Review the Open Space Map

For Your Area

Establishing a Community-Based 11:00

Open Space Plan for Alexandria

SmallGroup Discussions

12:00 PM Presentation of Group Plans

12:45 **Closing Remarks**

The Honorable James Moran U.S. Representative Virninia 8th District

Adjournment 1:00

earn more about the following:

Space Needs

ALEXANDRIA OPEN SPACE SUMMIT June 23, 2001

OPEN SPACE FACTS

A. <u>Citywide Information</u>

1. Population

- 2000 Census Population = 128,283
 - -- Percent change since 1990 = +15.38%
- 2000 Census Population Under 18 years of age = 21,537
 - -- Percent change since 1990 = +25.71%

2. Density

- Overall land area = approximately 15.75 square miles
- Population per square mile:
 - -- Alexandria = 8,145
 - Arlington = 7,315
 - -- Fairfax County = 2,385
- Sample Density Comparisons with Other Cities (persons per acre):
 - -- New York: 37.3
 - -- Boston: 18.0
 - -- Philadelphia: 17.1
 - -- Baltimore: 13.1
 - -- Detroit: 11.3
 - -- Alexandria: 11.0
 - -- Minneapolis: 10.2
 - -- Cleveland: 10.1
 - -- Seattle: 9.8
 - -- Pittsburgh: 9.8
 - -- St. Louis: 8.9

B. Parks and Open Space

I. Citywide Facts

- Total number of City Parks = 127
- Total park acreage = approximately 840 acres (includes school open space areas)

Based on data from *Inside City Parks* by Peter Harnik, using 1990 Census information. According to the 2000 Census, the number of persons per acre in Alexandria has increased to 12.7.

- Total park and open space acreage = approximately 1,110 acres (includes parks, school open space, environmentally sensitive areas, trails, and significant streetscapes/scenic roadways)
 - -- 45% active recreation (primary use)
 - -- 28% passive recreation (primary use)
 - -- 27% other open space areas
- Total park acres per 1,000 persons = 8.6 acres
- Park and open space acreage as percent of overall City acreage = 11%

2. Comparison between Select American Cities²

	Persons per Acre	Parks and Open Space per 1,000 Residents	Park Acreage as Percentage of City Acreage	Total
Alexandria	11.0	7.7	10.7%	111,183
//****				
High Density Cities:				
Baltimore	13.1	7.5	9.8	675,000
Boston	18.0	8.7	15.7	558,000
Chicago	18.7	4.3	8.0	2,722,000
Los Angeles	11.8	8.5	10.0	3,554,000
Miami	16.0	3.6	5.8	365,000
New York	37.3.	7.2	26.8	7,381,000
Philadelphia	17.1	7.2	12.4	1,478,000
San Francisco	24.6	10.3	25.4	735,000
Average, High Density Cities		7.2	14.2	
Medium:	[W
Cincinnati	7.0	21.4	15.0	346,000
Cleveland	10.1	5.8	5.9	498,000
Detroit	11.3	5.9	6.6	1,000,000
Minneapolis	10.2	16.0	16.2	359,000
Pittsburgh	9.8	7.8	7.7	350,000
Portland, OR.	6.0	26.2	15.8	481,000
Seattle	9.8	11.8	11.5	525,000
St. Louis	8.9	9.6	8.5	352,000
Average, Medium Density Cities		13.0	10.9	

² Also based on data from *Inside City Parks* by Peter Harnik, using 1990 Census figures.

ALEXANDRIA OPEN SPACE SUMMITJune 23, 2001

SUMMIT EVALUATION

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this event. Your input is important to ensure that the Open Space Plan for Alexandria addresses the needs and concerns of its citizens. We would also appreciate some feedback on the Summit itself. Therefore, before you leave, please take a few minutes to fill out this form and leave it in one of the boxes provided.

boxes	s provided.
1.	Do you feel that the format of the Summit allowed for a productive exchange of ideas for inclusion in the Open Space Plan?
2.	Would you be interested in receiving future information about the Plan? If so, please give us your name, address and, if appropriate, your e-mail address.
3.	Any additional comments?



Peter Harnik

Peter Harnik, a Washington, D.C.-based environmental writer and activist, is the author of *Inside City Parks*, the newly published study of the park and recreation systems of the 25 largest cities in the U.S. The two-year study, carried out for the Trust for Public Land and published by the Urban Land Institute in July, 2000, focuses not only on statistics such as acreage and spending, but also on innovative programs and initiatives. Through the book and in his continuing work, Harnik is particularly interested in such issues as how parks relate to cities at large, what makes a park system successful, how old parks can be revitalized and how new parkland can be created.

He is also a contributing author to the 1997 book, *Urban Parks and Open Space*, in which he studied in detail parks in Boston, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and Pinellas County, Fla.

Previously, Harnik co-founded the national Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, where he served as vice president, and also co-founded the local Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail which created a \$30-million rail-trail in Washington and Maryland. In 1980 he co-founded the People's Alliance for Rock Creek Park, which successfully worked to reduce weekend auto traffic in Washington DC's largest park.

In addition, Hamik currently serves as president of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association.

April 20, 2001

City of Alexandria Open Space Classification System Definitions:

Primary Use:

- Active Typically encompasses more heavily programmed and organized activities; such as athletic activities, dog parks and other intensive programs.
- Passive Primarily consists of less structured and less formal activities. Examples include—tot lots, picnic areas, historic/cultural sites, amphitheaters and unoccupied natural resource areas.
- Trails Open space corridors for conservation, recreation and alternative transportation; linear systems that may
 occur by streams and rivers, storm water corridors, utility corridors, abandoned rail lines, sidewalks and street
 medians. Trails are used for—hiking, biking, walking, running, transportation, recreation, wildlife corridors, and
 heritage resource connections.
- Streetscapes / Scenic Roadways Can include boulevards, medians, plazas, sidewalks, traffic calming
 devices, interchanges, street trees and plantings; that contribute significantly to the City of Alexandria's green
 space.

Secondary Characteristics:

- Cultural / Historical Sites of historic, archaeological and/or cultural interest.
- Dog Park Spaces that are primarily dedicated to dog related activities.

'Dog Exercise Area':

Areas of open space set aside for the specific use of dog owners/handlers to allow dogs off lead. The city may provide—posted rules, defined boundaries covered trash receptacles/pick up bags, and shade where possible. 'Fenced Dog Parks':

Fenced areas set-aside for dog owners/handlers to allow their dogs off lead. The city may provide—covered trash receptacles/pick up bags, posted rules, fencing and gates, water if feasible, and shade where possible.

- Educational School sites, other educational facilities, and or interpretive areas.
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas of environmental stewardship, which are protected by regulatory control. Examples include—wetlands, streams, rivers and riverbeds, 100-year floodplains, significant vegetation, slopes of greater than twenty-five percent, critical habitat and areas of endangered species.
- Natural Resource Areas Including woodlands, streams, rivers, wetlands and greenways. Activities may
 encompass picnicking, fishing, boating and trail related activities.
- Recreational Comprises areas with playing fields, courts, playgrounds, water sports or other recreational
 activities.
- Riverfront Including major streams, Resource Protection Areas, and floodplains.
- Urban Plaza / Streetscape Spaces that contribute to the open space character in the City. They typically
 provide public access.

Service Area:

- Regional Natural, cultural or recreational attractions that draw users from beyond the City. Typically these
 areas are part of a larger open space network which goes beyond the City boundaries. Examples of programs
 may include—athletic fields and courts, natural areas, swimming pools, fishing access, walking and biking trails.
 This type of park usually has self-contained parking.
- Citywide Contain programs that appeal to local interests and draw people from the city as a whole. Uses may
 include—athletic fields, athletic courts, natural areas, pools, recreation centers, walking and biking trails. Usually
 has on- and off-site parking.
- Neighborhood Multi-use facilities oriented to the surrounding neighborhood. These parks are most likely to
 include—garden plots, multi-purpose fields, picnic grounds, picnic shelters, playgrounds, dog areas, school parks
 and paths which reinforce the connections amongst the school, neighborhood and park. It may contain a limited
 amount of on-site parking.
- Block Intended for residents within a one or two block area. It may contain seating areas, landscaping and small-scale play equipment. It does not contain on-site parking.

Ownership:

- Public Owned by a governmental entity such as the City of Alexandria, NVRPA, Commonwealth of Virginia or Federal Government / National Park Service. Open spaces are dedicated for public use.
- Private with Public Access Private ownership with limited or unlimited public access.
- Private with no Public Access Significant open spaces contributing to the visual benefit of the City with no public access.
- Private with Traditional Public Access Including areas of common usage and/or access.

Maintenance:

Includes the entity or individual with the primary responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of open space areas.

- City of Alexandria Maintained by the City.
- NVRPA- Owned and/or maintained by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.
- Commonwealth of Virginia Virginia Department of Transportation highway and interchange properties which are maintained by VDOT.
- Federal Government / National Park Service- Owned and/or maintained by the Federal Government.
- Private Owned, operated and maintained privately.

Tools for Creating/Preserving Open Space in Alexandria and Beyond

	Tool	Purpose	Used in Alexandria?
	Fiscal Impact Analysis	Compares the operating expenditures and capital outlays for public services required for a proposed development to the revenues that a government is expected to receive as a resewhereoning process to development. Can be used in the plan reviewhereoning process to plan for new facilities (including open space), and can be used in the long-range planning process to test alternative patterns of development.	Yes. Fiscal impact was part of the information that City Council considered in approving the Carlyle, PTO, and Potomac Yard developments.
2.	Level of Service Standards	Specify the public facilities needed for new residential developments in an effort to determine if those facilities are adequate to support a proposed rezoning. Can help ensure that there are adequate schools, roads, libraries, parks, public transit, water, and sewer systems in the locality.	Not used in Alexandria in the precise manner of some high growth jurisdications, but it is used in a more generalized way in the City to examine the effects of development on traffic and parking. Level of Service Standards are also used in the City of Chesapeake, Prince William County, and James City County.
3	Conditional Use Permitting	Assesses and mitigates potential adverse effects of a zoned land use on the provision of open space and other elements (once land has been zoned for a specific use). Technique allows localities to conduct a review on a case by case basis and place specific restrictions on a zoned land use. It can also be applied at the time of development.	Yes. Alexandria makes extensive use of the Special Use Permitting mechanism.
4	Conditional Zoning (Proffers)	Requires property owners to accept certain restrictions and/or make contributions in exchange for a rezoning by the local government. Proffers can help mitigate the impact of development and win community support for a project, and can be used to improve roads, parks, and recreation areas. They can also be used to limit adverse environmental effects and improve the appearance of developments.	Yes. Rezonings in Alexandria are typically approved with proffered conditions.
5	Cash Proffers	A voluntary offer of money, submitted as part of a rezoning application to offset the impact of a particular development. Cash proffers help to mitigate the impacts of new development by providing funding sources for new roads, schools, and other public facilities required to serve proposed developments.	No. This tool is not currently permitted in Alexandria (Virginia Code only allows Cash Proffers in localities defined as "high growth"). Cash proffers are currently used in Prince William County, Loudoun County, Chesterfield County, and the City of Chesapeake.
6	Land Use and Utility Coordination	In order to better coordinate land use decisions and development in a locality, public water, or public water and sewer, is required for development approval in designated "planned growth areas". This can help development in a locality occur in an orderly, and desired, pattern adjacent to existing developed areas in order to maximize potential preservation of open space.	Yes, Potomac Yards is an example of a development where sewers were important, Elsewhere in Virginia, both Chesterfield and Hanover Counties have requirements for the provision of public water and sewer for development in planned growth areas.
7	Impact Fees	A charge or assessment imposed against new development in order to generate revenue to fund or recover the costs of public facility requirements necessitated by the development. These fees, therefore, help to place the infrastructure costs of growth onto new developments.	Yes. Alexandria imposes tap fees for water and sewer. The City also collects contributions toward its Housing Trust Fund from all development and toward transportation improvements in designated areas of the City.
8	Targeted Development Areas	Local governments, using their own criteria, designate specific areas of land for development and growth, thus preserving other areas as open space. Areas are then designated in comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances.	Yes. Examples include those areas of the City that are zoned CDD as targeted development areas.
9	Transit-Oriented Development Neighborhoods	Neighborhoods are clustered around transit hubs, such as light or heavy railroad stations. These clustered developments provide for a higher density and a mixture of uses (including open space), as well as affording residents multiple means of transportation for work and pleasure (such as automobile, rail, bus, biking, and walking).	Yes. In the area around the King Street Metro, the zoning ordinance provides incentives for ground floor retail and for restaurants and retail within office buildings. Generally, density is greater near Metro stations.
10	Master Pians for Development Areas	Individual master plans for areas designated by localities as "development areas." Localities can then use the master plans as the basis for use/density ordinance changes, public facility issues, and funding.	Yes. Alexandria is divided into 14 small areas for planning purposes, and the plans include development guidelines for CDD growth areas.

Tools for Creating/Preserving Open Space in Alexandria and Beyond (continued)

	Tool	Purpose	Used in Alexandria?
1	Conservation Easements (also Open Space or Scenic Easements)	A legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust/government agency that limits or prohibits the development of a property to protect its conservation value. Easements can be used to preserve open spaces, historic properties, watershed areas, forests, and farmland. The landowner can also see substantial benefits in the form of reduced real estate and inheritance taxes.	l i
12	Purchase of Development Rights	Allows a local government to purchase development rights that are then dedicated as easements for conservation, open space, or agriculture. Like easements, purchase of development rights allows localities to protect environmental, historic, and scenic lands without actually having to pay for fee simple ownership of the properties.	No, this program is not in place in Alexandria. The City of Virginia Beach is the only locality in the state to fully adopt and fund a purchase of development rights program. It is an Agricultural Reserve Program, whereby land owners voluntarily nominate their properties for inclusion into the program. Loudoun County, VA has started a program, and Howard and Montgomery Counties in Maryland also have very effective PDR programs for protection of agricultural lands.
13	Land Use Assessment and Taxation Program	Program uses discounts in property tax assessments to promote and preserve agricultural and forestal land uses, as well as open space. Besides the benefits of preserving natural resources, water supplies, scenic vistas, and open spaces, the program affords benefits for property owners in the form of reduced property tax assessments.	Yes. This program was used by the City for the Winkler Botanical Preserve.
14	Design Guidelines	A set of voluntary or mandatory standards designed to control the function and appearance of urban, suburban, and rural areas. Guidelines can cover everything from streets, sidewalks, plantings, facades, and signs all the way up to stringent guidelines that dictate building design, color, and open space and and park provision.	Yes. There are design guidelines for the Old Town Historic District, for Mount Vernon Avenue, and for individual large development projects, including Carlyle and Potomac Yard. The City is currently working on design guidelines for the eastern portion of Fisenhower Avenue.

Sources:

Virginia's Growth Management Tools by the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association, draft report, June 1999.

What Does Smart Growth Really Mean? Planning magazine, American Planning Association, April 2000.

Rural by Design, by Randall Arendt, Chicago: American Planning Association, 1994.

The Development Area Initiatives Project Final Report. Albemarle County, Virginia Department of Planning and Community Development, Development Area Initiatives Cities & Green Living: FAQs for Location Efficient Mortgages, Natural Resources Defense Council.

Funding Mechanisms for Acquiring New Open Space

	Tool	Purpose	Examples
	Grant Programs	Money provided to a locality for the purpose of land acquisition; may be given outright, or may require a local match. Grant sources typically include federal and state governments, and non-profit organizations such as foundations.	San Antonio, TX, 1996: 5,150 acres purchased with grants from the Edwards Underground Water District, the San Antonio Water System, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Leon County, FL, 1998-2001: County acquired 1,360 acres through Florida Communities Trust and Florida Forever programs.
2.	Involvement of Non- Profits	Non-profit organizations purchase and maintain open space land; purchase land in partnership with a community; or act in advisory role to communities/constituents.	Concord, MA: The Trust for Public Land purchased a 30-acre tract when the city had little time to implement a tax increase or bond issuance.
3	Donations of Funds or Properties	Individuals or companies donate funds to a non-profit, trust, or locality to be used for land acquisition,or they may donate land directly.	Fairfax County, VA, 2000: County set up a fund to which residents may donatemoney for land acquisition. As of June 2001, the fund had collected \$130,000.
4	Bonds	Localities sell bonds on the open market to raise funding for the acquisition of open space. The bonds are repaid to investors over a period of years.	Austin, TX: Citizens approved bond financing of open space land acquisition, with \$40.5 million in bond funding to be repaid over 30 years. Five-hundred acres have been purchased so far.
5	Taxes and General Funds	When communities wish to purchase open space, most often they raise the mil rate on assessed values, increase local sales taxes, and/or reallocate existing general fund money.	Fairfax, VA: A special fund within the Parks and Recreation Department's general fund is financed by a city property tax of 3.29%. Each penny of property tax generates approximately \$250,000.
6	Development Impact Fees	Development impact fees are levied on developers. Usually, they generate revenue to fund affordable housing or recoup the costs of public facility requirements. Impact fees have also been utilized to create a fund for the acquisition of new open space.	Currently being researched.
7	Limited Development	Limited development initiatives are undertaken when a desirable tract of open space becomes available to the private sector and the government cannot compete with the private sector when it comes to bidding for the land. The limited development approach involves enlisting a third party to purchase the land for the locality. The third party then resells the land to the locality and some private sector clients. Usually the third party is a non-profit group or a conglomeration of local businesses, citizens, and environmental groups. The third party charges the locality a reduced price for the purchase of its part of the land.	San Antonio, TX: When it purchased Government Canyon's 5,150- acre tract, the City of San Antonio enlisted the Trust for Public Land to help it negotiate the sale with the owners, who desired to develop the property into a golf village. The city purchased the land for half of its \$4 million value and the owners developed a portion of it.
8	Lease Purchasing	A lease-purchase is, in effect, a loan. A city or county finds a bank, leasing company, nonprofit organization, etc., willing to purchase the targeted property. The purchaser then leases the land to the city or county which makes a regular appropriation for "rent." The rent consists of principal and interest payments. At the end of the lease, the local entity has completely reimbursed the lessor and owns the property.	Currently being researched.
g,	COP Financing	Certificate of Participation (COP) financing is a form of lease-purchasing used to acquire expansive tracts of land. In this technique, the lessor purchases the desired open space and receives a small fee for its services. Instead of receiving the locality's lease payments, the lessor then assigns the rights to receive the lease payments to a trustee. The trustee, working with an underwriter, issues certificates of participation to individual investors who contribute to a property acquisition fund, which reimburses the lessor. The locality annually appropriates funds for lease payments to the trustee, who then distributes the payments to the certificate holders. The percentage of the payment received by each investor equals the percentage of the purchasing fund contributed by the investor. At the end of the lease, the locality acquires title to the property.	Carisbad, CA: The City of Carlsbad, CA issued an \$8.7 million COP in 1988 to acquire and preserve 52 acres of open space.



rmills@marasconewton .com

To: Beverly | Jett@Alex

06/22/01 05:49 PM

Subject: Alexandria Open Space Summit

Dear City Clerk and Clerk of Council Beverly I. Jett,

I may not be able to attend the City's open space summit this Saturday, but I ask you to pass a copy of this message to the Mayor, members of Council, Park and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and members of the open space summit.

Thank you,

Robert H. and Theresa E. Mills 1333 Chetworth Ct

June 22, 2001

Dear Leaders of Alexandria.

Please do not think that all of the North East Civic Association members feel exactly as Tom Witte does. While I applaud his encouraging us to let our views be known to the leaders of Alexandria, I strongly object to his abusing his position by using it as a bully pulpit to promulgate his opinions. He used his access to the email addresses of the NECA members to send out an email detailing his opinions about Chetworth Park.

My back yard opens onto Chetworth Park. I purchased my home because of the very fact that Chetworth Park is an official Dog Exercise Area. That enhances the value of my home to me. While I agree that there is nowhere near enough green space nearby, and that promises of future dog parks nearly a mile away are not the answer, I don't agree with Mr. Witte that the current situation is unworkable. If not for the curious lack of a seperate entrance to the toddler park, and an inadequate 3 foot tall fence, the situation would work just fine.

The dog owners in the neighborhood cherish this park. There is no problem with the disposal of feces: we try to help each out with this by picking up after all dogs, not just our own. The dogs are not allowed to threaten or harm people, be they children or adults, and there has not been an incident that I have heard of. We want to make this work for everyone. With that in mind, we have tried to appease the parents in the neighborhood by offering them one half of the park (they currently have about 40 per cent), in spite of the fact that dog owners out number parents in the neighborhood by at least two to one.

Currently there are three city or state owned parks within an easy five minute walk of my home. Two have children's play equipment, but only one is appropriate for dogs, and that is Chetworth Park. If the dog owners are denied off leash access for their dogs in Chetworth Park, they will be forced to walk them elsewhere. Right now there is not even an alternative

Sort CTO! CC, Santra 0= 6/23/01

available.

It has been suggested that the city purchase space in the island of Slater's Lane. Have you ever tried to cross Slater's Lane on foot during rush hour? It is dangerous, even at a cross walk. In any event, that park would be only marginally closer than Orinoco Park and Old Town itself. Consider this: if you had your choice of walking to the island of Slater's Lane or along the banks of the Potomac River, which would you choose? If Chetworth Park is taken away from the dog owners, the already over-crowded dog areas in Old Town will see an influx of at least half of the 40 dogs that are currently taken to Chetworth Park on a regular basis.

In summary, please get us more green space here in the North East. However, do not do it at the expense of the dog owners.

Sincerely,

Robert H and Theresa E. Mills 1333 Chetworh Ct.





alan.g.bell@verizon.net 06/24/01 12:30 PM To: Beverly | Jett@Alex

cc: kyle.bell@verizon.net @ INTERNET

CC, Coo, Blowing Sandra, 6/23/01

Subject: NECA and Open Space Summit

Ms. Beverly I. Jett City Clerk and Clerk of Council City of Alexandria, VA

j

June 24, 2001

Dear Ms. Jett:

I was unable to attend the City's open space summit this past Saturday, but I request that you pass a copy of this message to Mayor Donley, members of Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, and the members of the Open Space Summit.

Thank you, Alan Bell 808 Devon Place

June 24, 2001

Dear Leaders of Alexandria,

Thank you for holding the summit on open space this past Saturday.

I only just received notice of this meeting to address, as described in the announcement, the challenges of "...one of the most dense cities in the country, Alexandria ...". I regret that I was unable to change my schedule to attend.

Our neighborhood, the Northeast section of Alexandria, is one of the fastest growing areas of the City in terms of population, and also one with the least amount of open space. I hope you will recognize this and work with the Northeast Citizen's Association to identify and secure more open space for our neighborhood.

Historically, most of the open space in our neighborhood has consisted of private land, or undesignated land belonging to the City. Most of these areas have now been, or soon will be, fully developed. Additionally, the plans for the near future call for the redevelopment of nonresidential areas of our neighborhood, at significantly greater densities. Unless additional open space is identified for our neighborhood, the end result will be that more and more people will be forced to share the two limited parks - Powhaten Park on route US-1 and Chetworth Park between Bashford and Slaters Lanes. These parks are currently over-utilized and cannot be enlarged to accommodate the increasing population density of the neighborhood.

As a resident of Northeast, I hope you will address the worst open space shortfalls - including ours - first.

Our two parks are good parks, up to a point. They are kept clean, however, they are over-utilized because they are now trying to serve the 350 (and growing) new homes that recent development has brought us. Powhaten Park frequently overflows with multi-use activity. Chetworth Park, a small pocket park adjacent to townhomes served the Northeast neighborhood well for many years as an open multi-use field and, and then an enclosed multi-use field with modest toddler equipment.

More recently, Chetworth Park became non-viable for multi-use activity when it was split to serve two serve only two factions: dog owners and toddlers. This situation was further exacerbated when Council designated Chetworth Park as an official Dog Run, allowing professional dog walkers to drive dogs from elsewhere in the City to use our pocket park.

The Northeast Citizen's Association is working with our neighbors to make the best of this situation; however, NO GOOD SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE without more open area and new facilities. We need relief beyond a higher fence or larger play equipment at Chetworth Park, or the promise of future parks nearly a mile north of our neighborhood. We need more open land in the center of our neighborhood and we need it now.

We hope you will take the lead of City Manager Philip Sunderland, who said in the press release for the open space summit "... the City needs a plan to protect the open space that is still available...", and investigate and obtain potential lands on the west end of Slaters Lane for our use in the near future.

Thank you for your hard work and efforts on behalf of the citizens of Northeast and all of Alexandria.

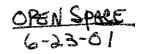
Sincerely,

Alan Bell 808 Devon Place

Alan Bell alan.g.bell@verizon.net

808 Devon Place Alexandria, VA 22314







Hooper.Harris@faa.gov

06/20/01 12:07 PM

To: Beverly I Jett@Alex

cc:

Subject: Open Space Summit

Ms. Jett-

My wife and I will be unable to attend this important meeting this weekend due to a previous commitment. I want to thank you and the City staff for taking the time and initiative to discuss the issues of open space in Alexandria. This is a wonderful city which remains so because of the hard work of many, both within city government and within the community at large.

My wife and I live at 1331 Chetworth Court, which backs onto Chetworth have two beagles, both appropriately licensed and of good personality and demeanor. We chose our townhouse for many reasons, but one of the most important was the access to Chetworth Park, and its status as a designated dog exercise area. This is not just important to us as dog owners... by taking the dogs to the park at least twice a day, we meet our neighbors, develop friendships and build community. Lasting relationships are built, and a part of the city stops being just a numbered precinct and becomes a neighborhood. The presence of dog owners in the park is incredibly positive... I feel completely safe knowing that responsible people and caring friends are nearby. The dog owners truly care about the neighborhood... on several occasions, dog owners (including me) have called 911 to report suspicious activity, possibly thwarting a crime. This sense of responsibility brings about responsible actions like watering, mulching and planting grass in the park. The dog owners know the value of the park, the value of a neighborhood, and work hard to maintain this great gift.

But others are not so inclined. There are some who complain about the park. They are also the same ones who never use the park, never come to socialize in the park, never contribute anything to the upkeep of the park, never do ANYTHING but complain!

This includes our "representative" to the North East Civic Association, Tom Witte. While Poul Hertel, NECA President, has actually come to participate on park work days and authorized some reimbursements of the expenditures necessary, Tom Witte holds meetings. Endlessly. And tells us how it used to be. And complains,

He carries a hidden agenda ... poorly.

I say all this to illustrate my main point: the Northeast area needs more open space. There are MANY of us who will vote with our dollars to do something, but we are not well represented by those who would purport to represent us. Find a spot and let the parents design a baseball field or a volleyball court, or any of the things that are too large for our little park. That will take a great deal of the pressure off Chetworth Park. It is a tremendous asset to the neighborhood, is well used, loved and maintained by dog owners. It is integral to growth of a vital, strong neighborhood. You have an untapped resource among those who understand the benefits of common areas and are unrepresented by our "representatives."

Thank you.
-Hooper Harris
1331 Chetworth Court
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 548-3339

OPEN SPACE 6-23-01



ellenrainsharris@yahoo .com

06/20/01 10:35 AM

To: Beverly I Jett@Alex

CC

Subject: Open Space Summit

Dear Ms Jett,

I will be out of town during the open space summit, so I will send a few thoughts to you in advance.

My home is adjacent to Chetworth Park, and our back gate opens directly into the park. We bought the home specifically in mind of the advantages of living next to this dog park, not just for the dogs, but for the comraderie and neighborliness that we have found in the park. In fact, it is the center of our neighborhood activism.

It is a very busy place, and we work very hard to keep it habitable despite the heavy traffic, using our

own resources (time AND money) to keep the place up. The city, unfortunatly, does very little to keep it up.

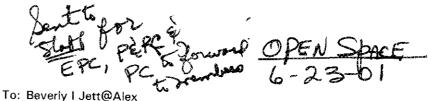
There are some who complain about the park. They are also the same ones who never come to socialize in the park, never contribute anything to the upkeep of the park, never do ANYTHING but complain. This includes our "representative" to the North East Civic Association, Tom Witte. While Poul Hertel, NECA President, has actually come to participate on park work days and authorized some reimbursements of the expenditures necessary, Tom Witte holds meetings. Endlessly. And tells us how it used to be. And complains.

I say all this to illustrate my main point: the Northeast area needs more open space. There are MANY of us who will vote with our dollars to do something, but we are not well represented by those who would purport to represent us. As one who does not feel represented, I think that this e-mail may be the only way my small voice can contribute to the conversation.

Find a spot and let the parents design a baseball field or a volleyball court, or any of the things that are too large for our little park. That will take a great deal of the pressure off Chetworth Park. You have an untapped resource among those who understand the benefits of common areas and are unrepresented by our "representatives."

Sincerely.

Ellen Rains Harris 1302 Chetworth Court





blclark5@home.com 06/20/01 09:13 PM

cc: poulh@erols.com @ INTERNET
Subject: Comments for Open Space Summit

Dear Beverly,

I will not be able to attend Saturday's summit. Please forward this message to Mayor Donley and members of Council, and members of the Environmental Policy, Parks and Recreation, and Planning commissions, and others as appropriate.

Thank you,

Barbara Clark 731 Bernard Street

Dear Mayor Donley and members of Council, and members of the Environmental Policy, Parks and Recreation and Planning Commissions.

I am pleased to see this open space summit is actually taking place.

Please consider the following suggestions:

Because this is the first summit of its kind, and because it will be the first time citizens are made aware of the current status of the consultant's work, please plan for and carry out more meetings/work sessions/public hearings on this subject. To make this truly a community effort, there needs to be more opportunities for working together.

On the other hand, we cannot wait to "protect the open space that is still available," as Mr. Sunderland suggests. We cannot continue the piecemeal carving up of the City without a "grand plan" for this protection. I ask, again, that you pay particular attention to vacating City land. We must be more creative with our City resources. If the open space study includes an inventory City-owned land, we should take a look at how best to leverage this for the long term -- perhaps this inventory can be used to create a pool of City land. Any vacating of the land must be offset by acquisition of comparable land area. Placing this offset in strategic places can be done to accomplish our goal.

Please be sure to publish (on Alexandria's web site and other channels) feedback from the public hearings on open space that were held in the three planning districts this spring. There was a lot of important information shared during those meetings.

There needs to be less departmentalization/compartmentalization in this City. Although separation of duties can lead to more efficient decision making in day-to-day business, City-wide issues need to have the benefit of multiple departmental perspectives. Specifically, the Geographic Information System (GIS) needs to have "layers" (maps of the city with color codes) to denote, for example, land use zones, schools, streets, parks, open space, BMPs, RPAs, RMAs, vegetation vs. pavement, bike trails, etc.

Open space needs to be considered in conjunction with these other uses, to ensure that placement is optimal.

These layers need to be made available to the public via the City's web site.

Finally, the Northeast is weefully deficient in open space (see Land Use publication of 1990). Please take every possible action to acquire the state-owned land across Bashford Lane from the Dixie Pig for use as POS. Please take every possible action to acquire/designate the land in the Slaters Lane "loop" as POS (I vote for a dog run there to alleviate the overused tiny Chetworth Park).

Thank you, Barbara Clark

P.S., Where are the Thousand Friends of Alexandria?



tmw@his.com 06/19/01 09:25 PM

erly | Jett@Alex

cc:

Subject: NECA & open space summit

To: City Clerk Beverly I. Jett, Beverly.Jett@ci.alexandria.va.us

CC: President of NECA Poul Hertel, poulh@erols.com

Subject: NECA & open space summit

Dear City Clerk and Clerk of Council Beverly I. Jett,

I may not be able to attend the City¹s open space summit this Saturday, but I ask you to pass a copy of this message to the Mayor, members of Council, Park and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and members of the open space summit.

Thank you Tom Witte 819 Chetworth Place

6 June 2001

Dear Leaders of Alexandria,

Thank you for holding this summit on open space.

I only recently received notice of this meeting to address, as described in the announcement, the challenges of 3.. One of the most dense cities in the country, Alexandria ... 2. I regret I am unable to change my schedule so I can attend.

However since my neighborhood, the NorthEast is one of the areas in the City with the least amount of open space and fastest growth in population. I hope you will work hard to get us more open space.

For the last decade most of the open areas in our neighborhood - private land - that many assumed was our open space, have been developed. Bringing more and more people to share our very limited parks. While Powhatan Park on US1 and Chetworth Park between Slaters and Bashford Lanes have not gotten any bigger.

Worse, the plans for the near future call for the redevelopment of the nonresidential areas in our neighborhood, at significantly increased densities.

Our density and need for open space is going to increase even more.

As a NorthEast resident, I hope you will address some of the worse open space short falls, like ours - first.

Our two parks are good parks. They are keept clean and well used. In fact too well used, because they now trying to service 350 (and growing) more homes that recent development has brought us.

Powhatan Park on US 1 frequently overflows with multi-use activity. Chetworth Park, a small pocket park adjacent to townhomes has served us well as an open multi-use field, then an enclosed multi-use field with modest toddler equipment for many years.

More recently, Chetworth Park has become unusable for multi-use when it was split to serve only two factions, toddlers and dog owners. This situation was made worse when Council designated it an official Dog Run, because now professional dog walkers drive vans/trucks full of dogs from all over the city to use our pocket park.

While NECA is working with neighbors to make the best of this situation, NO GOOD SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE without more open area and new facilities.

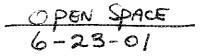
We need relief, and relief is not a higher fence or bigger play equipment or future promise of parks nearly a mile north of here. We need more open land in the center of our neighborhood and we need it now.

We hope you will take the lead of the City Manager Philip Sunderland, who said in the press release for this meeting "... the City needs a plan to protect the open space that is still available." and investigate and obtain the potential lands in the west end of Slaters Lane for our use in the near future.

Thank you for all your hard work in making our city a better place.

Sincerely,
Tom Witte
819 Chetworth Place

Beverly | Jett@Alex





Sacha@aol.com 06/19/01 09:59 PM

cc:

Subject: Open Space Summit

To: City Clerk Beverly I. Jett, Beverly.Jett@ci.alexandria.va.us

CC: President of NECA Poul Hertel, poulh@erols.com

Subject: NECA & open space summit

Dear City Clerk and Clerk of Council Beverly I. Jett,

I will not be able to attend the City's open space summit this Saturday, but I ask you to pass a copy of this message to the Mayor, members of Council, Park and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and members of the open space summit.

Thank you Dave Sacha 910 Portner Place

6 June 2001

Dear Leaders of Alexandria.

Thank you for holding this summit on open space.

Tom Witte, also a member of the NorthEast Community expressed very well his concerns, my concerns, and I believe the community at large. His points are repeated below for emphasis. We NEED MORE OPEN SPACE! PLEASE. So far the new developments in the area I have seen are just adding homes and only mimimal open space. More space, even small pockets, prevents overuse. I believe we have a community here that cares. Look at the parks we have today. Overused yes, but people care and help to care of them. More area also offers more uses. Kids, teens, adults, and even dogs all need open space. Lets plan and execute growth with responsibility and include open space for the future.

I only recently received notice of this meeting to address issues surrounding open space in our community. I regret I am unable to change my schedule so I can attend.

However since my neighborhood, the NorthEast is one of the areas in the City with the least amount of open space and fastest growth in population. I hope you will work hard to get us more open space.

For the last decade most of the open areas in our neighborhood - private land - that many assumed was our open space, has been developed. Bringing more and more people to share our very limited parks. While Powhatan Park on US1 and Chetworth Park between Slaters and Bashford Lanes have not gotten any bigger.

Worse, the plans for the near future call for the redevelopment of the

nonresidential areas in our neighborhood, at significantly increased densities.

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We hope you will take the lead of the City Manager Philip Sunderland, who said in the press release for this meeting "... the City needs a plan to protect the open space that is still available." and investigate and obtain the potential lands in the west end of Slaters Lane for our use in the near future.

Thank you for all your hard work in making our city a better place.

Sincerely, Dave and Suzanne Sacha 910 Portner Place Alexandria Va 22314 South EPC, John Dero PERCE To: Beverly | Jett@Alex

6-23-01



mattpayne_@yahoo.co

06/20/01 01:11 PM

m

ce: pc

cc: poulh@erols.com @ INTERNET Subject: NorthEast Alexandria Open Space

Dear City Clerk and Clerk of Council Beverly I. Jett,

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the City's open space summit this Saturday, but I ask you to pass a copy of this message to the Mayor, members of Council, Park and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and members of the open space summit so that my concerns can be heard.

Thank you very much Matt Payne 1133 Powhatan Street

I am a new homeowner in the NorthEast section of Alexandria, and I am happy to hear about the open space summit taking place this week. I value Alexandria's open space very much, and I am concerned about the potential loss of current and/or potential green space for the residents of NorthEast. I agree with others in the community that now is the time to act to preserve and protect green space because without a plan, the last pieces of undeveloped land could easily get swallowed up bit by bit over the next 5-10 years, and I would hate to see the NorthEast in a crisis situation with respect to greenspace. Some simple steps now to acquire or preserve city owned space and set it aside for permanent green space will go a long way and be appreciated by many generations of Alexandria residents, including my family.

Thank you very much, and I look forward to reading about the results of the summit and participating in future efforts to preserve our precious Alexandria green space.

Matt Payne 1133 Powhatan Street

Matt Payne 1133 Powhatan Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703.549.2331

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities 1108 Jefferson Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3999



(703) 838-4343 Fax (703) 838-6344

Sandra Whitmore Director

June 25, 2001

Peter Harnik 666 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Suite 401 Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Peter,

Thank you for such a stimulating keynote speech at the Open Space Summit. Everyone enjoyed not only the historic comments on parks, but the specific information on how Alexandria relates to other cities nationwide. We believe the summit was a great success and certainly appreciated your participation.

I will be attending the National Recreation and Park Association's National Congress in Denver this October. One of the sessions and on-site tours focuses on the South Platte restoration which you highlighted in your speech. I will certainly attend that session as I can see so many parallels to our work on Four Mile Run.

Sincerely.

Sandra Whitmore, CPRP

Director

cc: The Honorable Mayor Kerry J. Donley

Phil Sunderland, City Manager



Sandra Whitmore Director

City of Alexandria, Virginia

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities 1108 Jefferson Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3999



(703) 838-4343 Fax (703) 838-6344

June 25, 2001

The Honorable James P. Moran 2239 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515-4608

Dear Congressman Moran, Jun,

On behalf of the City, I want to thank you for attending the Open Space Summit this weekend and for your timely words that addressed open space challenges both in Alexandria, as well as the entire Northern Virginia region. We are fortunate to have someone with a vision representing us in Washington.

Again, we appreciated your efforts to help make the summit such a success.

Sincerely,

Sandra Whitmore, CPRP

Director

cc: Honorable Mayor Kerry J. Donley

Phil Sunderland, City Manager

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities 1108 Jefferson Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314 Sent to CC
future

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Information, Call: Janet Barnett / (703) 838-4842

For Immediate Release: April 3, 2001

OPEN SPACE PUBLIC HEARINGS

Three public hearings have been scheduled to discuss the open space study. The dates are as follows:

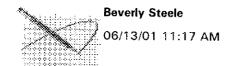
- 1. Monday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street for Planning District 1 (zip code 22314)
- 2. Monday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2601 Commonwealth Avenue for Planning District 2 (zip codes 22301, 22305, and 22302 east of Quaker Lane)
- 3. Wednesday, May 2, 7:00 p.m. at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4643 Taney Avenue for Planning District 3 (zip codes 22304, 22311, and 22302 west of Quaker Lane)

These sessions will provide an opportunity for all citizens of Alexandria to come and participate in the planning process for the Open Space Study currently underway. The consulting firm of Rhodeside and Harwell, Inc. has been working with City staff and a citizen steering committee to develop a formal plan to address the future of the City's open space. These sessions will allow citizens to hear about the study process, examine materials that have been developed thus far (such as maps, inventory lists, and the classification system), and make comments and suggestions.

While all citizens are welcome to attend any of the meetings they choose, individuals are encouraged to participate in the session which will focus on their neighborhood.

Residents who are unable to attend may send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

Please call (703) 838-4842 for an agenda or related information.



To: Michele Evans/Alex@Alex, Phil Sunderland/Alex@Alex, mayoralx@aol.com@internet, billclev@home.com@internet, wmeuille@wdeuille.com@internet, delpepper@aol.com@internet, dspeck@aol.com@internet, Judy Stack/Alex@Alex, sandy.murphy@ci.alexandria.va.us@internet, council-woodson@home.com@Internet, jluby@home.com@internet, vote4eberwein@aol.com@internet, Mark Jinks/Alex@Alex, Lori Godwin/Alex@Alex, mlynnsmith@home.com@Internet, Ignacio Pessoa/Alex@Alex, Beverly I Jett/Alex@Alex, Amy Bertsch/Alex@Alex, Sandra Whitmore/Alex@Alex

cc:

Subject: Open Space Summit

Alexandria, Virginia

Office of the City Manager Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street, Suite 3500 Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3211

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2001 CONTACT: SANDRA WHITMORE, DIRECTOR, RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (703) 838-4842

On Saturday, June 23, 2001, the City of Alexandria will hold an Open Space Summit from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street. The purpose of the Open Space Summit is to give the citizens of Alexandria an opportunity to participate in the process of establishing a community-based open space plan for the City. The Keynote Speaker will be Peter Harnik, author of *Inside City Parks*, and contributing author to *Urban Parks and Open Space*. Mr. Harnik is a co-founder of the national Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and a consultant to the Trust for Public Lands. Closing remarks will be given by Congressman James P. Moran, U.S. Representative for Virginia's Eighth Congressional District.

Participants in the Open Space Summit will contribute to the development of the community-based open space plan for the City by helping to define: Alexandria's open space vision, future open space opportunities, implementation options, and re-use possibilities. Small group discussions focusing on open space opportunities in each participant's area of the City will become the basis for a preliminary plan for Alexandria. This plan will identify potential open space opportunities city-wide, the possibility of connecting existing green spaces with new green spaces to form linear greenways, and using open space to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods.

A Steering Committee of representatives from three City Commissions (Planning,

Parks and Recreation, and Environmental Policy), with the assistance of City staff and the consulting firm of Rhodeside and Harwell, Incorporated, have been meeting since September 2000 to take a comprehensive look at open space planning in the City. Their goal is to develop an open space plan that would eventually become a Parks and Open Space chapter in the City's Master Plan.

Open space comes in many different types: neighborhood, community, natural resources, cultural/heritage, urban, streetscape, multi-use trails, private, dog parks, recreation areas. The Steering Committee has inventoried all public land and has classified these open spaces based on their primary and secondary characteristics. These will be reviewed at the Open Space Summit on June 23. "Most of the land in Alexandria's 15.75 square miles is essentially developed," said City Manager Philip Sunderland, "and the City needs a plan to protect the open space that is still available."

For additional information about the Open Space Summit, call the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities at (703) 838-4842.

CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS

- 29. Alexandria Commission on Employment
 - 1 Representative From An Organization Such As Educational Agencies, Organized Labor, Rehabilitation Agencies, Community-Based Organizations, Economic Development Agencies and the Public Employment Service
 - 1 Business Representative From Among Recognized Area Businesses Including Minority-Owned and Small Businesses

Cou	ncil Action:
30.	Alexandria Community Services Board 1 Citizen Member
Cour	ncil Action:
	Alexandria Public Records Advisory Commission 1 Citizen Member
Cour	ncil Action:
	CUTIVE SESSION
32.	Consideration of Convening of an executive session following the June 12 meeting to discuss the acquisition of real property for public purposes, where public discussion would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City, pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, and for consultation with counsel regarding actual or probable litigation and other specific legal matters requiring the advice of counsel, pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia.
Coun	cil Action:

Public Notices

City Council will hold a Special City Council Work Session to discuss plans for Windmill Hill Park, on Wednesday, June 6, 2001, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA.

* * * * *

There will be a Samuel Madden Task Force Meeting to discuss the Samuel Madden Homes (Downtown) on Friday, June 8, 2001, from Noon to 2:00 p.m., in the Council Workroom, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA

On Saturday, June 23, 2001, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., City Council will hold an Open Space Summit, at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA.